

On April 28, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. Steven Chappell received notification from the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) that a petroleum pipeline had released diesel oil into the Suisun Marsh.

Mr. Chappell immediately drove to the site to offer his assistance and expertise to the Incident Command Team, comprised of State and Federal agency representatives. He explained how managed wetlands work and took immediate action to close all water control structures on the affected property.

As a direct result of Steven Chappell's quick actions in closing the gates, the diesel oil remained contained within the area and did not enter the Roos Cut, an unimpeded waterway extension which feeds into the tidal sloughs and adjacent wetlands of the Suisun Marsh.

In addition, Mr. Chappell prepared detailed aerial maps of the Suisun Marsh and returned to the spill site that same day. These aeriels have been invaluable in OSPR's cleanup efforts.

For weeks after the spill, Steven Chappell devoted an inordinate amount of time coordinating with OSPR, the United States Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Kinder Morgan, the owner of the pipeline, in cleanup efforts and in the development of a restoration plan.

Steven Chappell's timely actions helped to avert a major disaster at the Suisun Marsh wetlands. I am proud to commend him today for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Suisun Resource Conservation District and to the people of Solano County.

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS DESIGNATED AS A 2004 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the children, parents, teachers, and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School. The designation of a 2004 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Award honors only those schools that have successfully achieved excellence in academics and have closed the achievement gap in academic proficiency for all of their students.

The designation of the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is particularly meaningful to me because it is named for the former Congressman Clement J. Zablocki who was my predecessor in the U.S. Congress, and an effective and beloved representative who served the citizens of Milwaukee's south side for many years.

It is evident that the principles of accountability, focusing on what works, increased flexibility, reduction of bureaucracy and the empowerment of parents, has been successfully integrated into the daily philosophy of the Zablocki Elementary School.

Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Patricia Walia this school has not only achieved academic excellence for the students, but has initiated innovative and creative ways of having the children of Zablocki Elementary School involved with community organizations, agen-

cies and businesses that have enriched their lives and broadened their view of the community and world. Dr. Walia has successfully established bonds between her staff, parents and the community that support all of the goals of the school.

The Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is only the 5th elementary school in the Milwaukee Public Schools system to be designated as a Blue Ribbon school since 1982. This is an extraordinary and remarkable achievement.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the children, teachers, and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School and commend their efforts in providing a standard of excellence in the field of education.

HONORING PFC SHELDON HAWK EAGLE

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of PFC Sheldon Hawk Eagle of Eagle Butte, SD. Private First Class Hawk Eagle was killed November 15, 2003 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On November 20, 2004, friends and family in Eagle Butte will pay tribute to Sheldon and recognize the one year anniversary of his death with a memorial dinner and walk in his honor.

Private First Class Hawk Eagle graduated from the Cheyenne Eagle Butte High School, in Eagle Butte, SD, in May of 2001. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2002, and graduated basic training from Ft. Sill, OK, later that same year. In 2003 Sheldon became Air Assault qualified and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division. He was deployed to Iraq in March, 2003.

Sheldon, whose Lakota name is Wanbli Ohitika, or Brave Eagle, is a descendant of the Lakota leader Crazy Horse, who helped defeat LTC George Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn. Sheldon joined the Army while visiting his sister in North Dakota and dreamed of becoming an elite Army Ranger. While both humble and quiet, Sheldon's sacrifice speaks loudly about his character.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Sheldon's compassion and service. Sheldon, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the Lakota people, continues to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation and South Dakota are far better places because of his life, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Private First Class Hawk Eagle. His commitment and sacrifice to our Nation will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING RYAN SOENDKER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Soendker of Blue Springs, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Soendker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE A&F WOOD PRODUCTS FOR EARNING THE 2004 SECRETARY OF LABOR'S NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE AWARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize A&F Wood Products, a family-owned and operated business in Howell, MI, for earning the 2004 Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award. Founded upon the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New Freedom Initiative works to ensure that Americans with disabilities have the same opportunities to learn and develop skills, engage in productive work and make choices about their daily lives to participate fully in their communities. A&F Wood Products is just one of five companies nationwide to be recognized for their commitment to these ideals.

A&F Wood Products has embraced the philosophy on which the New Freedom Initiative was founded. Working with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, A&F Wood Products is able to provide employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities through accessibility support, training, and a user-friendly workplace environment. Today, 35 percent of A&F Wood Products' workforce are persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, when President Bush announced the New Freedom Initiative in 2001, unemployment for the disabled was as high as 70 percent by some estimates. Today, businesses like A&F Wood Products are working feverishly to slash that number. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing A&F Wood Products for earning the 2004 Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award and for their commitment to the disabled.